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JAPANESE FARMERS IN CALIFORNIA

By COLONEL JOHN P. IRISH

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"We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."—The Declaration of Independence.

"Observe good faith and justice toward all nations; cultivate peace and harmony with all; religion and morality enjoin this conduct, and can it be that good policy does not equally enjoin it?"—George Washington's Farewell Address.

Library of
Congress

Copies of this pamphlet may be obtained from John P. Irish,
1904 Adeline Street, Oakland, California.

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ON DECEMBER 17, 1919, THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT ON AND AFTER FEBRUARY 25, 1920, IT WILL STOP ISSUING PASSPORTS TO WOMEN WHOSE MARRIAGE TO JAPANESE RESIDENTS IN CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES HAS BEEN ARRANGED THROUGH EXCHANGE OF PHOTOGRAPHS. THIS VOLUNTARY MEASURE ADOPTED BY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT ONCE AGAIN PROVES ITS SOLICITUDE FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND PROMOTION OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND CALIFORNIA.

Geo. P. Irish

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COPY OF
CALIFORNIA

JAPANESE FARMERS IN CALIFORNIA

(An address by Colonel John P. Irish at the 52nd Convention of California Fruit Growers and Farmers held at Chico, California, November 10 to 16, 1919.)

THE PRESENT vituperative discussion of the question of the Oriental people in California, goes deeply into the whole subject of productive labor on the land. When we treated our treaty with China as a scrap of paper and by the Geary Act excluded thirty thousand Chinese who were legally domiciled here, and by murdering and destroying the property of other Chinese, drove them out, there was created a shortage in farm labor, and this economic vacuum drew in the Japanese, who came protected by a solemn treaty between their government and ours.

The Japanese now here constitute a fraction of one per cent of our population. Against this minute element many of our people are being lashed into a fury of apprehension, hatred and rage. There may be left amongst us those who are capable of calm consideration, and to such I venture to address myself.

The present storm was started by Senator Phelan's statement that an American company in Los Angeles had sold to Japanese 800,000 acres of land on the Mexican side of the Imperial Valley. The American company promptly proved this to be false, and proved that it had sold no land there or elsewhere to Japanese. The Senator then shifted the story to such a sale to Japanese by the Mexican Government. That government promptly denied such sale and submitted proofs of the falsity of the charge. Not discouraged, the Senator shifted again to the charge that Japanese women in this state are having children and declared that the government ought to stop it.

A little retrospection ought to calm the temper of this discussion and confine it to the truth. When San Francisco was shaken to its foundations and levelled by fire, and thousands of its people had no food or shelter, their cry for help went out to the world. The only country that heard and heeded was Japan. That government immediately sent a quarter of a million in gold to the relief committee, of which Senator Phelan was a member. A few months later the San Francisco School Board kicked all Japanese children out of the public schools, and its secretary gave as a reason that the Japanese children did nothing but study in school and in the examinations took the prizes and promotions that the white children ought to have!

Soon after this an organized anti-Japanese movement began, headed by an ex-convict.

The Legislature began to take notice and passed an act ordering

the State Labor Commissioner to thoroughly investigate the Japanese in the state and make a report. To pay for this work the sum of \$10,000 was appropriated.

The commissioner took ample time in the investigation. He relied on the testimony of scores of white witnesses in every locality where Japanese were domiciled. He gave the name and address of each of these white witnesses. His report, based on their testimony, refuted every lie about the Japanese coined by the ex-convict and his followers. Now that report was a public document, paid for by the taxpayers' money. But the influence of the ex-convict with the State Government was able to prevent its publication, and the taxpayers who paid for it were not permitted to see it. In the foregoing is a record of absolute fact. Is it a record of which any decent citizen can be proud?

We have now entered upon another phase of the anti-Japanese question, and in this phase the same old lies, refuted by that report, are in use once more, and the politicians who eat their bread in the sweat of the taxpayer's face, are shouting them from the housetops.

Since that report was made what have the Japanese been doing? Nothing but working, and by their industry adding to the wealth of the state.

In our country the normal flux and change of affairs always following a war, has been displaced by abnormal conditions. The hands of men are raised against our government. Anarchists advocate destruction of our institutions. They destroy life and property by bombs. The I. W. W. teach murder and arson as commendable occupations. Organized labor under this radical leadership, strikes destructively. In our own state tons of food have rotted on the docks because the stevedores refuse to move it, and claim the right to mob and murder any who will move it. Seventy-five per cent of the local tonnage of this state is affected by water transportation, and all water-borne tonnage has been forbidden for months by a strike which threatens death to all who would take the strikers' place.

Are there any I. W. W.'s amongst the Japanese? No. Are there any Japanese anarchists? No. Are there any Japanese bomb throwers? No. Are there any Japanese mobs busy murdering men who want to work? No. Are there any Japanese groups teaching resistance to our laws and the destruction of our institutions? No. Then what are they doing? They are at work. "But," cries the alarmist, "they should not be allowed on the land."

Why not? The Japanese have had but little independent access to the good lands of California. They found the sand and colloidal

clays of Livingston cursed and barren as the fig tree of Bethany.' On that infertile spot the Japanese wrought in privation and want for years, until they had charged the soil with humus and bacteria, and made it bear fruitful and profitable orchards and vineyards. Now white men, led by these Japanese pioneers, pay high prices for land that was worthless, and grapes purple in the sun and peaches blush on the trees, where all was a forbidding waste until Japanese skill, patience and courage transformed it.

The refractory hog wallow lands stretching along the east side of the San Joaquin Valley, were abhorred and shunned by the white man. But the Japanese Sakamoto, seeing that they were in the thermal belt, began their conquest for citrus orchards. He persisted. He won, and now vineyards and orchards cover the hated hog wallow land from Seville to Lemon Cove. And Sakamoto is called a "menace" to California!

These same experiences were repeated on the bad lands of the state.

We now produce a rice crop valued at \$30,000,000, on hard pan and goose lands that were not worth paying taxes on. But it was Ikuta, a Japanese, who believed those lands would raise rice, pioneered that industry and produced the first commercial crop of rice raised in the state.

The anti-Japanese agitator represents that people as parasites. The fact is that wherever the Japanese has put his hand to the pruning hook and plow he has developed nobler uses of the soil, and land values have rapidly risen.

The statement is made, and was recently published in a "Chronicle" editorial, that when Japanese begin to settle in a farming district that district is ruined for the occupation of whites, who get out of it as soon as they can. Of course that is a falsehood. Its refutation is seen at Livingston, where Japanese were the pioneers and now are outnumbered eight to one by white settlers who have come there since Japanese enterprise proved the value of the land.

In Sonoma County, near Santa Rosa, was a barren hillside so infertile that it hardly produced weeds. On its highest part was a spring. A Japanese secured a contract on it, dug out the spring, securing an increased flow, laboriously fertilized the sterile soil, and now gets \$800 per acre from it in strawberries. In the same county is an area of sterile hardpan land called "Starvation Flat." A Japanese has taken it, sunk a deep well and is slowly and laboriously conquering the rebellious soil, and soon that area will be a picture of fertility and prosperity, and anti-Japanese agitators will point to it, as they do to

the strawberry garden on the formerly repulsive hillside, as proof that the Japanese are usurping the best land in the state. The fact is that from the reclamation of the tule swamps, promoted by Mr. Shima, to nearly every acre owned by Japanese, they wrought upon the leanest and the poorest land in the state, which white men would not touch, and by toil and sacrifice made it as good as that which was naturally the best.

Now it is proposed to expel them, not for their vices but for their virtues, and every Japanese oppressed by brutal legislation and expelled can hold his head high erect in his own country and say, "I was excluded from California for my virtues, my industry, my skill and the benefit I was to the land and its production."

The Japanese with wives are all married according to our laws. The women are amiable, good wives, mothers and housekeepers. It is false that they work in the fields. Their children, admitted to our schools, will make good and useful Americans. But the cry is raised that though only about one per cent of our population, they will outbreed, outwork and outdo the other 99 per cent of white people. If this be true it proves a degeneracy of the whites which would be a just cause of alarm. The field is open. Economic law repeals all statutes. The way to combat the Japanese is not by lying about them and depriving them of the common, primitive rights of humanity, but excelling them in industry, in foresight and enterprise.

ARTICLES I AND II OF THE TREATY BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES.

The subjects or citizens of the two High Contracting Parties shall have full liberty to enter, travel or reside in any part of the territories of the other Contracting Party, and shall enjoy full and perfect protection for their persons and property.

They shall have free access to the courts of justice in pursuit and defense of their rights; they shall be at liberty equally with native subjects or citizens to choose and employ lawyers, advocates and representatives to pursue and defend their rights before such courts, and in all other matters connected with the administration of justice they shall enjoy all the rights and privileges enjoyed by native subjects or citizens.

In whatever relates to rights of residence and travel; to the possession of goods and effects of any kind; to the succession to personal estate by will or otherwise, and the disposal of property of any sort and in any manner whatsoever, which they may lawfully

acquire, the subjects or citizens of each Contracting Party shall enjoy in the territories of the other the same privileges, liberties and rights, and shall be subject to no higher imposts or charges in these respects than native subjects or citizens, or subjects or citizens of the most favored nation. The subjects or citizens of each of the Contracting Parties shall enjoy in the territories of the other entire liberty of conscience, and, subject to the laws, ordinances and regulations, shall enjoy the right of private or public exercise of their worship, and also the right of burying their respective countrymen according to their religious customs, in such suitable and convenient places as may be established and maintained for that purpose.

They shall not be compelled, under any pretext whatsoever, to pay any charges or taxes other or higher than those that are, or may be, paid by native subjects or citizens, or subjects or citizens of the most favored nation.

The subjects or citizens of either of the Contracting Parties residing in the territories of the other shall be exempted from all compulsory military service whatsoever, whether in the army, navy, national guard or militia; from all contributions imposed in lieu of personal service, and from all forced loans or military exactions or contributions.

There shall be reciprocal freedom of commerce and navigation between the territories of the two High Contracting Parties.

The subjects or citizens of each of the Contracting Parties may trade in any part of the territories of the other by wholesale or retail in all kinds of produce, manufactures and merchandise of lawful commerce, either in person or by agents, singly or in partnerships with foreigners or native subjects or citizens; and they may there own or hire and occupy houses, manufactories, warehouses, shops and premises which may be necessary for them, and lease land for residential and commercial purposes, conforming themselves to the laws, police and customs regulations of the country like native subjects or citizens.

They shall have liberty freely to come with their ship and cargoes to all places, ports and rivers in the territories of the other, which are, or may be, opened to foreign commerce; and shall enjoy, respectively, the same treatment in matters of commerce and navigation as native subjects or citizens, or subjects or citizens of the most favored nation, without having to pay taxes, imposts or duties of whatever nature or under whatever denomination, levied in the name, or for the profit, of the government, public functionaries, private individuals, corporations or establishments of any kind, other or greater than those paid by native subjects or citizens, or subjects or citizens of the most favored nation.

CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES,
ARTICLE VI, SECTION 2.

This Constitution, and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof, and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land; and the judges in every state shall be bound thereby, anything in the Constitution or laws of any state to the contrary notwithstanding.

* * * *

FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT.

All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

The Stolen Letters of Senator Phelan

How Did He Get Them?

The Campaign of Lies

Governor Stephens for Negro Colonization of California

By JNO. P. IRISH
1904 Adeline Street, Oakland

(COPIES FREE)

Senator Phelan was the first witness before the House Committee on Immigration, in its recent investigation of the Japanese question. He began by an abusive attack upon me, which he renewed during the two and a half hours he was before the Committee. I was called next, and then Senator Phelan grabbed his hat and ran from the room.

During his examination, Senator Phelan exhibited three private letters, all written by Mr. Kawakami, one to Governor Stephens, one to me, and one to Dr. Sidney Gulick. When asked by the Committee how he came into the illegal possession of these letters, he refused to answer. When pressed to tell, he said, "They may have been lifted from the mail."

I explained to the Committee that the letters to Governor Stephens and me were trap letters, not mailed, but left to be stolen by some thief in the employ of Senator Phelan who was suspected of robbing Mr. Kawakami's mail. The letter to Dr. Gulick had been regularly mailed.

On my second appearance before the Committee, I said that the people were not interested in the origin of those letters, but they were in knowing how Senator Phelan got illegal possession of them. As he said they "May have been lifted from the mail," he cast suspicion

upon the postmasters of San Francisco and Oakland, his appointees, and personal and political confidants and co-religionists, and they could be purged of the suspicion of robbing the mail for him only by the Committee compelling him to tell how he got the letters. I said to the Committee that "There are gentlemen running for the Senate, for which Senator Phelan is also a candidate, and if, as his reply opened the door to suspect, his appointees are robbing the mail to serve his purpose in the Japanese matter, they may also rob the mail to help him in politics. His postmasters are therefore entitled to be purged of the suspicion he put upon them, and that can be done only by the Committee compelling him to tell how he got the stolen letters."

The Committee agreed with me, and summoned him to appear and tell. He refused to appear before the Committee again, and has contented himself with writing a letter to the chairman, in which he again refuses to tell, and says they were procured for him "by a gentleman."

In this letter Senator Phelan attacks Kawakami, who is so far his superior mentally and morally that the difference between them is polar.

He also renews his attack upon me. So Senator Phelan is trying to divert public attention from his contemptible predicament by challenging me to a personal controversy in which I decline to engage. Such controversy I have only with my equals, not my inferiors.

I put the real issue to the people of California, which is, do Senator Phelan's postmasters rob the mail for him? He is their accuser. I am not. This issue I propose to keep before the people by every means of publicity I can find.

It is of public interest that the Senator has enriched the vocabulary with three terms illustrative of his morality. When he was Mayor of San Francisco it was his sworn duty to frequently count the taxpayers' money in the city vaults. Of that money the City Treasurer stole \$200,000. On his trial Phelan was called as a witness, and when asked if he actually counted the money, he replied that he had "hefted the coin bags."

As to his stolen letters, now he says they were given to him by a gentleman, and "May have been lifted from the mail."

Hence we have this Phelanesque addition to the vocabulary:

"Gentleman"—A man who supplies the Senator with stolen letters.

"Hefting"—Counting iron washers as gold in the City treasury.

"Lifting from the mail"—Robbing the mail of private letters for the Senator's benefit.

The people of this State are now aware that their Senator is a very sneaking sort of a coward, who dared not face a Committee of Congress which came here at his request.

The Federal Penal Code, Sec. 195, Chapter 8, makes the embezzling, or stealing, or "lifting" a letter from the mail by a postal officer or employe, a felony, punishable by a fine of \$500 and imprisonment for five years.

The law makes the receiver of that which is stolen equally criminal with the thief. The reader may now estimate the legal plight of Senator Phelan, with his "lifted" letters.

THE CAMPAIGN OF LIES

The following parallel is presented to impress the reader with the persistence of the campaign of atrocious lying by which our people are to be stampeded into supporting the Inman-Phelan initiative which dishonors and disgraces the State. I ask the decent people of California how long can a society endure whose public opinion rests upon the rotten foundation of Satanic lying?

THE LIE

From the "Examiner," July 28

"JAPS REFUSE AID TO SICK, SAYS SAILOR

Captain of Schooner Declares He Could Not Get Medical Assistance for Crew on Island

Burial of American Seaman on South Sea Island Not Allowed by the Japanese Authorities

Charging gross injustice to, and inhuman treatment of American sailors by Japanese naval authorities of the island of Panope in the South Sea group, Captain K. O. Bauer and ten members of his crew with the schooner Lottie Bennett made port yesterday.

According to Captain Bauer, he was forced to put into the Japanese controlled island in April, when a mysterious disease broke out among the members of his crew. Nearly all of the crew were kept to their bunks by the disease, and the first mate, J. W. Boswell, died.

According to Captain Bauer, the Japanese naval authorities were extremely discourteous and refused to permit the sick American sailors

to be taken ashore for treatment, or to supply fresh vegetables to the ship.

Not alone were the Americans refused a landing, but the captain was ordered to put to sea immediately in the face of a northwest gale. The Japanese even refused permission for the Americans to bury the first mate, and they were compelled to bury him at sea.

The disease was a peculiar malady. The men were first stricken with a high fever. Then later their legs became swollen and turned blue. The swelling continued to their waistlines.

Sailing from Tulage in the Solomon group of islands in the South Seas 118 days ago, the vessel carried a cargo of copra to the Burns Philp Company. When a few days out from Tulage the first mate became ill. As the winds did not permit a return to the port of sailing, the captain continued on his course, but as other members became stricken with the disease and the first mate died, he sought assistance at the island of Ponape.

Three members of the crew were still ill when the little schooner put into this harbor yesterday.

According to port officials here, this is the most flagrant case yet recorded against the Japanese authorities. It is pointed out that one of the first courtesies of the sea is to give haven to stricken sailors.

Captain Bauer intends to report his charges to Washington."

THE DENIAL

From the "Commercial News," July 29

JAPANESE DID NOT MISTREAT U. S. SAILORS

Regarding the story published in yesterday's editions of the two big (?) morning dailies concerning the alleged mistreatment by Japanese of sailors on the schooner "Lottie Bennett," the "Commercial News" is in receipt of the following communication, which explains itself:

"San Francisco, July 29, 1920.

"Editor 'Commercial News'

"Dear Sir:

"As owners of the schooner "Lottie Bennett," we desire to correct any misapprehension which may have arisen through the published statements of some of the crew of this vessel relative to treatment accorded our vessel in the Caroline Islands.

"The Japanese authorities extended to our vessel every courtesy and assistance at Ponape. A

doctor from the Japanese warship, together with the Government Health Officer, extended to the sick members of the crew every attention, and medical supplies were generously given to the ship free of cost. The launch from the Japanese warship in Ponape harbor assisted the vessel when it appeared likely she would strand on one of the reefs at the entrance of the harbor.

"The statement has been published that the Japanese refused to permit burial of the deceased mate, but we would like to point out that the mate died thirteen days before the arrival of the schooner at Ponape, and was buried at sea.

"In view of the generous treatment accorded us as American owners of the ship by the Japanese authorities at Ponape, we feel constrained to ask that you would be good enough to correct any erroneous impression which might have arisen through the published statements already referred to, which have no foundation in fact.

"With thanks in anticipation, we are

"Yours truly,

"BURNS-PHILP CO. OF SAN FRANCISCO,
INC.

Per D. W. Cross."

The refusal of succor to sick or shipwrecked sailors is a crime against humanity that stirs all men to anger and protest. The "Examiner" selected the lie with ingenuity that would do the devil credit. Its lie was read by thousands, the disproof by few. I ask my fellow citizens, do you wish to ally yourselves with the campaign of lies?

The "Examiner's" story was made out of whole cloth, as the captain of the ship must have made the truthful report to the owners of the vessel.

NEGROES PROPOSED TO TAKE THE PLACE OF THE JAPANESE

Even their enemies admit the industry, obedience to law and skill as farm workers of the Japanese. The Board of Control and Governor Stephens admit that our 24,000 Japanese farmers and farm workers in 1919 produced \$67,000,000 of food products from the soil, not one dollar of which would have been added to the commonwealth without them. But the Governor, the Board of Control and the anti-Japanese agitators they lead propose to drive the Japanese farmers out of the State. Who will take their place? Already a substitution is planned.

A negro paper called "The California Free Lance," devoted its entire issue of April 1, 1920, to advocating the colonization of the State with

Southern negroes. At the top of the first column on the front page of that issue appears the following letter of Governor Stephens approving the plan:

"MORE NEGRO LABOR ON FARMS

By Governor Wm. D. Stephens

Written Especially for the California Free Lance

Workers are what we need, and opportunity was never so widely open to the negro as it is today. A very large number of colored workers are well fitted for farm labor, and it would be better for them, and a measure of aid to our agricultural interests, if they could be diverted from the cities into the country. The farm laborer situation is difficult in this State, and steps might well be taken to shift to the country those colored men who are residing in large cities, under conditions unsuited to them. Our negro workers could themselves help to solve this problem. Any effort initiated on their part undoubtedly would meet with active encouragement. Some adaptation to new conditions would be necessary, but this could easily be brought about through co-operation between negro workers and the employing farmers of our State.

I regard this matter of shifting workers who are misplaced in cities to the farms of our State as a matter of importance, and I invite the earnest attention of the negro people to it as one primarily in their interest as well as being for the best interests of our State."

The Governor's letter is followed by one from a member of Inman's Anti-Japanese Executive Committee.

In his letter to Secretary Colby, Governor Stephens puts all his emphasis upon the need of expelling the Japanese because we cannot assimilate them. When he has helped fill the State with Southern negroes, will the Governor proceed to assimilate them?

I assure my fellow citizens that anti-Japanese agitators are trying to stampeade them into an act of dishonor that will involve the State in a mesh of difficulties of the most serious nature.

Do you want to persecute the clean and intelligent and orderly Japanese into exile, in order to replace them with Southern negroes? That is what you are asked to do. Choose ye.

COMMITTEE OPPOSING THE ANTI-JAPANESE INITIATIVE

In the official pamphlet of instructions to voters the anti-Japanese initiative heads the list of initiative measures upon which the voters of this State will act in November. There will also be found

THE ARGUMENT AGAINST THE ANTI-JAPANESE INITIATIVE BY JNO.

P. IRISH, APPOINTED BY THE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

"This initiative raises questions of cold law, to which I invite the very thoughtful attention of the voters.

"Our treaty with Japan provides that the Japanese here 'may own or hire and occupy houses, manufactories, warehouses, shops and premises and lease land for residential and commercial purposes.' In its economic definition commerce consists of Production, Transmutation and Exchange. Production is the ranking element because without it there can be no commerce. The treaty protects the right of Japanese to hire or own manufactories, for transmutation, warehouses, necessary to exchange, and to lease land for commercial purposes. Land employed in agricultural production is employed in a commercial purpose. The treaty is intended, then, to give the Japanese privilege to enter upon complete commerce, and therefore protects their right to lease land for production. Any other interpretation twists the plain language of the treaty into vain repetition. Considered in the light of the fourteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which says: 'No state shall deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the law,' we find the initiative in conflict with our own Constitution, since it proposes a discrim-

inatory classification of aliens, conferring upon one class the protection of the law which it denies to another class.

"This discrimination applies also to the leasing of land denied to Japanese and permitted to other aliens. It also applies to the feature of the initiative which subjects Japanese minors who own land to the guardianship of the Public Administrator, but exempts other alien minors who own land from such guardianship.

"These proposed discriminations against classes of aliens, were adopted by the people of another state by the initiative and were voided by the U. S. Supreme Court as unconstitutional. That court held that 'equal protection of the laws, is applicable to all persons, without regard to any differences of race, color or nationality' and that discrimination under the pretense of 'promoting the health, safety, morals and welfare,' is unconstitutional, and denies 'the very essence of personal freedom and opportunity it was the purpose of the amendment to secure.' And 'if such freedom could be refused upon the ground of race or nationality, the prohibition of the denial to any person of the equal protection of the laws would be a barren form of words.'

"In the foregoing I have stripped the initiative of its cryptic and involved language and technicalities, so that it is naked in its two purposes: First, to forbid the leasing of land to Japanese and Chinese; and Second, to take land-owning minors of those races from the natural guardianship of the parents and commit them to the control of the Public Administrator. All the other confusing propositions of the initiative respecting holdings in corporations, etc., are subordinate to these two. Landowners are warned that if the State can forbid them to lease to a certain class, it can also compel them to lease to a certain other class. They must resist this invasion of liberty."

To that argument no answer has been made by the anti-Japanese agitators, because it is so self evident that it cannot be disputed.

To support that argument this Committee is organized. Its purpose is to publish the truth and expose the falsehoods by which it is attempted to stampede the people into support of the anti-Japanese initiative, and incidentally to elect to office

several politicians whose sole claim to support is their abuse of the Japanese.

Believing that the sore needs of the country demand a higher form of politics than the abuse and misrepresentation of the orderly, intelligent, industrious and law-abiding Japanese, who were our useful allies in the world war, and who are here by our invitation in a treaty made with their country, we declare our position to be, that without increase in their number by immigration, the Japanese who are here have earned and deserve the respect and support of our people, and that to expel them by persecution will inflict great moral and economic injury upon California. Such being our position we invite the men and women of this State to join our standard and support the honor and the Christian civilization of California by opposing this unjust, unnecessary, un-Christian, illegal and inhuman initiative, and leaving the settlement of any issue involved, to the Federal Government, where it belongs.

As the most powerful advocates of the expulsion of the Japanese are on record as proposing to colonize the State with Southern negroes, we unite with the thinking people of California opposing such an exchange, as involving an unspeakable peril to the women of the State.

The sub-committee on discussion is authorized to challenge the anti-Japanese organization to a public, joint discussion of the Japanese question, with our representative, in order that the people be no longer misled by ex parte statements lacking in the element of truth.

THE COMMITTEE

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- | | |
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The Anti-Japanese Pogrom

Facts versus the Falsehoods of Senator Phelan and Others

By Colonel John P. Irish

Let it be repeated that the present anti-Japanese agitation, like the anti-Chinese movement of years ago, has the same psychology as the Russian anti-Jewish pogrom, which always starts with the lie that Jews have murdered Christian children to use their blood in the rites of the Synagogue. The leader of the anti-Japanese pogrom is Senator Phelan. An election is approaching. He has made no record of any benefit to the state in the Senate; so he must divert attention from his uselessness as a senator by attacking the Japanese and trying to stampede the state by lying about them.

It is my purpose to take up his public statements and those of his helpers in this ignoble work, and prove them false, not by my word, but by official and other indisputable authority.

Senator Phelan began his pogrom by publishing that an American company had sold to Japanese 800,000 acres of land on the Mexican side of the Imperial Valley.

The American company at once proved this

to be a lie. It had not sold land anywhere to Japanese.

Mr. Phelan then changed his statement and charged that the Mexican government had sold 800,000 acres of land adjoining our boundary to Japanese, and that this was a violation of the Monroe Doctrine!

The Mexican government immediately replied with proof that it had not sold land anywhere to Japanese, and as Senator Phelan had claimed that under the Monroe Doctrine the United States can dictate to the states of Central and South America what private parties may own land in their jurisdiction, President Carranza very promptly and properly repudiated the Monroe Doctrine.

In November, Mr. Phelan published in the Chico "Enterprise" that he had been approached by a Japanese who presented a letter from our Ambassador to Tokio, and who proposed that we should surrender the whole Imperial Valley to the Japanese.

But the Senator had furnished a clue to test the truth of the story by naming a letter from our Ambassador, and soon changed the story, and in its new form it was published in the "California Cultivator" of January 31, 1920, as follows:

"When I left Washington an American representing powerful Japanese organizations said to be backed by the Japanese government, proposed that Americans be ousted from the Imperial Valley and it be turned over to the Japanese."

Notice that in this last version no names are mentioned, and no clue given, not even finger marks. As no Japanese and no American can be thought of to be fool enough to go to Mr. Phelan with such an idiotic proposition, the statement has the face of a lie in both versions.

In November he made a speech to the Chamber of Commerce of Oakland. After some vagrant vituperation of the Japanese, he ventured upon a specific statement to call attention to the "horrible condition of Merced County, overrun by Japanese who own there

6000 acres of the best farm land in the county."

I immediately wrote to the Recorder of Merced County to let me know the acreage owned by Japanese. In reply he sent me the 1919 report of the County Assessor, just made to the State Controller. The Assessor says there are 185 Japanese in Merced County. They own 395 acres of farm land and 36 town lots. There are 27 Japanese children in the primary schools and two in the high school. The white neighbors of the Japanese all say they are good people to do business with, and unobjectionable.

On the 18th of last December Mr. Phelan made an anti-Japanese speech to the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco, in which he said that Japanese births in California were three to one white birth.

The official report of the State Board of Health, sent to me by Mr. Ross, Registrar of Vital Statistics, shows for 1919:

White births.....50,898
Japanese births..... 4,378

The records of the Board of Health show more white births in the single year 1919 than Japanese births in the full ten years preceding. His speech on that occasion strung other lies on this birth rate lie, like beads on a string.

In their statements made to the Committee on Immigration of the United States Senate, both Senator Phelan and Mr. McClatchy said that there were in California 20,000 picture brides and that "they usually each give birth to a child once a year." The official report of the California Board of Health for 1919 records 4378 Japanese births in the state for that year. So that of the imaginary picture brides, 20,000 in number, reported by Phelan and McClatchy, more than 16,000 must have been asleep at the switch.

After Governor Stephens refused to call an extra session of the Legislature to pass anti-Japanese laws, Phelan said in Washington that the Governor had received a letter from the Japanese Association warmly thanking him for his refusal, and Phelan published the letter.

I wrote the Governor's office asking if he had received such a letter. The answer was: "Phelan's statement is an absolute lie."

There are men in San Francisco who know the inside facts about this little comedy. When those facts are made public, as they undoubtedly will be, the Senator will have to face an embarrassing situation. In the meantime, it is sufficient to say that the Governor never received the letter.

Recently a questionable item in a naval appropriation bill was before the Senate. Mr. Phelan demanded its passage as necessary to the defense of this coast, for he said, "the largest Japanese warship lies in the harbor of Honolulu."

A few days later the Associated Press published from its agent in Honolulu that no Japanese warship was in Hawaiian waters, nor had been for a long time. Commenting on this, the New York "Sun" said maybe Senator Phelan does not know where Hawaii is!

The Senator has uttered other defamatory statements, and every one is a lie. They are as thick in his record as cooties in a battle trench. I leave him now to attend to the cases of his companions in falsehood and exaggeration.

I dislike to say that Mr. V. S. McClatchy, of the Sacramento "Bee," intentionally lies, but his bitter prejudice and hatred have fed his credulity until he has become a "carrier" of falsehoods, as some people are "carriers" of typhoid. Mr. McClatchy has published that during the twelve months ending June 30, 1919, 9678 Japanese were found to be illegally in this country and were arrested and deported.

Now the official report of the Commissioner of Immigration shows nine Japanese deported for being illegally in the country, in the year ending June 30, 1918.

The Commissioner's report for the next year, ending June 30, 1919, shows 117 contraband Japanese were apprehended and deported. So for the full year covered by Mr. McClatchy's statement, the official report

shows only 126 Japanese illegally in the country and deported. I wrote the Commissioner General of Immigration asking the foundation for Mr. McClatchy's statement, and that official seems to think that his official report, above quoted, is sufficient answer. The circumstantial evidence is against the truth of McClatchy's figures, since the arrest of so large a number could not have escaped the notice of the newspapers and of the Japanese Consul. Mr. McClatchy follows his apocryphal figures with the statement that "No account is taken of the picture brides who arrived." This is not true. They all had to land at the Immigration Station and be registered, undergo a physical examination, and their names and those of their husbands recorded.

In Mr. McClatchy's statement to the Immigration Section of the Commonwealth Club he said the Japanese on landing at first drive white labor out by working for low wages and then proceed to conquer everything. This statement is not true. I am a farmer and know, as do all farmers, there was no white labor to drive out. Instead of working for low wages, the Japanese in California are paid the highest farm wages in the world, and they are the most industrious and skillful land people in the state.

The glaring falsehoods of Honorable John S. Chambers I have already answered. The lies in the newspapers are too numerous to mention. One in the "Call" may suffice. That paper, under infuriating headlines, published that Japanese stevedores in loading an American cargo of vegetable oils had maliciously punched holes in the tin containers with loading hooks, and the oil leaked out, and this was done to damage American commerce. The owner of the oil in San Francisco and the officers of the ship at once exposed the story as a malicious lie, as did Lloyds, whose surveyor in Kobe watched the loading and certified to the proper condition of the cargo. Then it was shown by the same parties that Japanese stevedores use no loading hooks. But did the "Call" correct the lie? Not up to date.

Another member of Phelan's pogrom gang publishes that Japanese have leased ten million acres of land in the Sutter Basin. Go to the maps in the office of the State Reclamation Board and you find that in the whole Sutter Basin, from the mouth of Butte Slough to the confluence of the Sacramento and Feather rivers, there are only sixty thousand acres. But people who don't know what where Sutter Basin is, read that ten million and rush to join the anti-Japanese pogrom.

Senator Phelan has published a study of "hybrids," as he calls them, half Japanese and half white children. I refuse to accept his an expert opinion.

During the anti-Chinese pogrom there were long and hot discussions over Chinese and white hybrids, impossibility of assimilation. But the multi-millionaire Chinese Ah Fong, Honolulu, had a bevy of charming daughters by his wife, who was half and half Portuguese and Hawaiian. The Ah Fong girls were toast of the Pacific, beautiful and accomplished, and they all married well, to white gentlemen, several of the husbands became officers in the American army and navy.

It is demonstrated by the foregoing that politicians are trying to stampede the people of California to do an act of dishonor against an industrious, cleanly, and law-abiding people. The proposed initiative measure has to go back to the cruelties attending the expulsion of Jews from Spain, to find an equal in cruel inhumanity, and dishonor. It violates the treaty with Japan and the Fourteenth Amendment to our own Constitution, and is a product of the disgraceful lies from which it comes. I stand for American honor, decency, and fair play; I stand for what is called Christian civilization and wonder if there is enough of its spirit in California to save the honor of the state.

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